

A. S. WATSON & CO.

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• Whilst the columns of the *Hongkong Telegraph* will always be open for the fair discussion by correspondents of all questions affecting public interests, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for opinions thus expressed.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.
Arrangements have been made to publish *The Hongkong Telegraph* daily at 4 P.M. Subscribers in the central districts who do not receive their copies before FIVE O'CLOCK will oblige by at once communicating with the Manager.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1883.

Mr. GLADSTONE made an important statement in the House of Commons yesterday with respect to the case of Mr. SHAW and the relations of the English and French Governments in that delicate matter. Mr. WADDINGTON has been authorised by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to state that "the French Government will do everything in their power to put an end to this incident." We cannot, we suppose, misunderstand this assurance. It means, we infer, that the French Government will order the release of Mr. SHAW. There might be other ways of "putting an end to the incident," but none which an English Minister would announce with satisfaction, or which a French Minister would promise as an act of international courtesy. Whatever qualifications may be implied in Mr. GLADSTONE's statement that the importance of the declaration depended on its being given and received in an equitable spirit, there can be no ground for anticipating any less favourable result than that to which we have pointed, 'Mr. GLADSTONE's forbearing and courteous language, worthy

been shown. France is not above being taught by an enemy, and is displaying through some of her most important organs of opinion a disposition to reconsider the policy which has led to her isolation on the Continent. Is it satisfactory to us to find influential French journals speaking in language identical with that which we have ventured repeatedly to use. One newspaper declares that "it is 'high time for the country to interfere, and impose upon the Government a less hazardous policy, and one less open to sudden complications.'" Another draws from the Madagascar incident the important and salutary general conclusion that distant expeditions should be undertaken with more circumspection than France has recently shown. Are those distant expeditions, it asks, worth the cost even of their success? The reverse just sustained by the French arms in Tonquin shows that not merely a too costly success, but the possibility of failure, with all its embarrassing and irritating consequences, has to be reckoned with. "No risk," says the same journal, "should now be run, for we have fallen on dangerous times. Our situation in Europe demands the utmost prudence." This is not the language of pusillanimity. It is that of a true and sober courage which dares to look the posture of affairs in the face and to state the truth in disregard of natural sensitiveness and of the demands of a false sense of honour.

"Would an advantage in Madagascar compensate us," asks a French journal which we have already quoted, "for the loss of robust and hearty friendliness with England?—We had one friend, a selfish one, perhaps"—England is always selfish when it is not perfidious—"but still a friend, and an influential one. Can we any longer count on its friendly offices? It has certainly cooled, since we launched out into a bold colonial policy, and began to undertake distant expeditions." There is no more cardinal maxim of our foreign policy than the necessity of cultivating and maintaining friendly relations with France. That is a Liberal tradition, as well as a Liberal conviction. It was acted on by Mr. CANNING—a Liberal in foreign politics—and by Lord PALMERSTON, and no one has been truer to it than Mr. GLADSTONE, who has often announced his inherited and life-long sympathy with the ideas of Mr. CANNING in these matters. The efforts which he is now making, under very trying and difficult circumstances, to prevent a rupture with France, show the tenacity with which he holds to this doctrine. The cordial admiration which Englishmen feel for the French genius and of many points in the French character—an admiration springing more out of natural differences than out of natural resemblances—will powerfully aid him, if our French neighbours will allow this feeling to have fair play. But why, we may ask, should France have only one friend? Europe, a friend, too, whose good dispositions she has of late been severely trying?—What constitutes the dangers of the "dangerous times on which she has fallen"? The peril lies in that restless spirit of adventure, which, making its first beginnings in Africa and Asia, may it be feared, presently disturb Europe. Long ago, we raised our voice in warning. The journalists and politicians who respect the friendly cautions of the English Press do not like any better, we imagine, the open threats of the *North German Gazette* which might have been spared if heed had been given to suggestions which were made in pure goodwill, and the prudence of which French journalists cannot admit by echoing them.

While a cordial understanding with France is the aim of our statesmen, the desire of the country, nothing can further from the intentions of England than a defensive and offensive combination of the two Western Powers against the German Empires of Central Europe. A triple alliance, which seems to be dreamed in some quarters, of England, France and Russia, against the triple alliance of Germany, Austria, and Italy, would be still less possible if there were degradation in impossibility. We have nothing to fear from Germany or from Austria, and we have no cause of complaint against them. They do not threaten to incommode us in any way. The admission of Servia and Roumania to the two Empires may possibly result in giving Austria practical command over the Danube, and the reversion of certain provinces of the Turkish Empire, which the inevitable collapse of the empire would bring about, would be a disaster to come. Alarms for the safety of our Indian Empire would rather lead us to ally ourselves with Russia than Austria within measurable distance of Constantinople. The fact, though we regret to say it, that the European Power of which we will say we have most cause to complain, but whose recent action we have most reason to scrutinize with vigilance and anxiety, is France. Her colonial policy touches us to every part.

We need not speak more of Madagascar nor of certain enterprises on the Western Coast of Africa. The war in Tonquin threatens to become an open war with China, in which enemies more powerful than the Chinese armies would fight against France—climate and distance, floods and pestilence—a war which in its progress would carry disorganization with it, interrupting European commerce, and opening a new Eastern question, far larger and more formidable than that which for generations has been the puzzle and torment of European politicians. It may be difficult for France to withdraw now from the mistaken enterprises in which she has embarked. It will be more difficult, and yet it may be essential, to do so after disaster and loss. She is threatened by a European alliance against her. It is in her power, if not at once to dissolve, yet to disarm that alliance, by adopting a policy of peace which may be distasteful to a few ambitious politicians, but which reflects the desire of a sober, industrious, and intelligent but politically too silent and acquiescent population.

LONDON, October 4th

It is reported that France refuses to make any concession to China beyond the neutralization of North Tonquin.

THE hull of the barque *Flodden*, which came to grief during the last big blow in the north, realised 1,400 at public auction in Shanghai the other day.

SAYS the Amoy *Gazette* of the 1st inst. - The steamship *China* which left this port on the 27th September bound for Tamsui, put back yesterday morning with her machinery disabled.

WE are informed by the Acting Agent of the
P. & O. S. N. Co., that the steamship *Rohilla*
with the incoming English mail, left Singapore
for this port on Thursday last, the 4th instant
at 4 p.m.

THE *Mercury* states that Mr. Chun Pohan, the newly appointed superintendent of trade to Korea with his translator, Mr. Chun Fuh Cho, will leave Shanghai for Korea by the steamship *Poochi* on the 11th or 12th inst.

WE understand that the return of the U.S. *Richmond* to this port, with Admiral Pierce Croes on board, has been considerably accelerated in consequence of the late disturbance at Canton and she may consequently be expected here very shortly.

THE first match of the season, First Eleven Next Twenty-four, was commenced on the Cricket Ground shortly after two o'clock this afternoon in glorious weather, and is now proceeding as we go to press. A full report of the play will appear in due course.

THE U.S.S. *Monocacy* has been ordered Admiral Pierce Crosby to convey the United States Minister, the Hon. John Russell Young, on an official visit—to the various Consulates in China. Mr. Young may be expected here about the middle or end of next month.

THE entries have closed for the Shanghai Autumn Race Meeting. The 23 races on the programme have secured an aggregate entry of 796 ponies, with entrance fees amounting to £5,270. The Shanghai Stakes has 10 ponies entered. All these figures are "the best on record." The Shanghai Race Club Stewards evidently understand their business.

The Hankow correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* writes on September 24th—
broke out in the native city yesterday evening resulting in thirty houses being burned. A quiet here at present, nothing more being heard of the White Lily Society. The river has risen on an average two inches a day during the week; and to-day the water-mark is 39 feet inches.

We would remind our readers, that the "Christian Ladies' Band" will give a performance in the Temperance Hall, this evening, commencing at 9 o'clock. The above talented artists have had a very successful season in London and will leave for Shanghai by the French mail. We have no doubt the inhabitants of the Mission Settlement will largely patronise the "Ladies' Band Combination."

The following elegant literary *marceuil* appears in a recent issue of the Shanghai *Mercury*:
Black Satin. This favorite old black horse terminated his racing career, after just eight years. He was found during the training, to be too young with age for any more racing. He commenced his career by winning the Griffins at Chongking, 1875, and four other races at the same place, including the Champions. He was Mr. Crook's bet property. Then he went to Hongkong, where he won one race. Then he came to Shanghai, where he won four races at the Spring Meeting of 1876, and five at the Autumn, winning the Champions of each. He has won 34 races on race days and 10 on off days. That is more than any pony in China. He has won the Champions 3 times, and been placed 3 times besides. For Prejudice has won it three times, and placed by the judge twice more. Black, became Mr. Pauly property in 1876. These two phenomenal race ponies, Temkushan and Torpedo, he is the best. Mongolian pony I have ever seen. Prejudice and Strath may perhaps be placed on a par with him. Length of time he has been kept in racing condition reflects the greatest credit on the judgment of his accomplished trainer.

Noah's ark has been captured by a Turk. Noah counted on no account of his doings at this late day. The olive branch which the dove carried will probably be found between the leaves of the log book.

"WERE you ever struck by lightning, deacon?" asked the boarder of Farmer Furrow. "Wal, not exactly," replied the old man, "but I know how it must feel." "How's that?" "Why," whispered the granger, as he nervously glanced toward the kitchen door where his wife sat shell-picking beans, "the old woman once caught me trying to kiss the hired girl, and—" Just then his helpmeet looked up, and the farmer quickly called his boarder's attention to the antics of a calf in an adjoining field.

INSTEAD of dying out, the Jewish body shows increasing vitality. They cannot be stamped out or swallowed up. They pass from country to country to become practically masters wherever they go. They get the land in Germany and Hungary, and grow rich in Russia; they are the great bankers in London and Paris and the centres of European commerce. In ten recent years the Rothschilds furnished \$100,000,000 in loans to England, Austria, Prussia, France, Russia and Brazil. They increase larger than Christians, and of every 100,000 persons only 8 Jews die to 143 Christians.

Very few people who cry "Hip, hip, hurrah" with such gusto know anything about the origin of the words. During the times of the Crusades the chivalry of Europe was roused to arms by the inflammatory appeals of Peter the Hermit, who always displayed a banner emblazoned with the following letters, H. E. P., the initials of the Latin *Hierosolymus est perdita*, "Jerusalem destroyed." The people who were not acquainted with Latin pronounced the letters as a word, Heph, and whenever they chanced to meet a pole they raised the cry, "Heph, heph, hurrah" and the chances were greatly in favor of the Jew's feeling the point of their swords.

DEALING with the present rage for speculation, correspondent sends us the following :—

THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.
Big John, he met a friend one day,
And says to him, says he,
"What do you think of joining in
Our little Company?
There'll be no risk beyond your share,
Which you shall have at par,
Half interest in the purchase of
A number one cigar,

I'm going to be the Chairman,
And for the cash you've got to part
You shall, if you will follow me,
Shareholders represent.
No simple Tom invested
The savings of his life,
And thus became full owner
Of a number one-copper.
A general meeting there was called,
At which they did unite,
And by combined efforts
At last obtained a sight
Of the Chairman thus commended to smoke
The shareholder to please,
Who looked with admiration
At such elegance and state,
But, as the smoke went curling up,
And half the woad was done,
The shareholder began to think
He wasn't quite such a fish.
"Hold hard, old fellow," then he cried,
"Now let us have his air,
"What say," the others gravely said,
"to carry the chair."
"Net rate of interest do I get?"
"What rate of interest do I get?"
"Why, see me under the chair,"
The Chairman said—
"And don't leave it" (a) rate).

We take the following from our Sydney contemporary, the *Bulletin*:—Not long ago, North, one Mr. Ah See, was served with a notice to sequestrate his stock for the benefit of confiding white creditors. But Ah See could see it at all, as his real name was Sam Song. So a fresh writ was served on Sam Song, and it then transpired he was only keep shop for an innocent firm called Wah Yung Ty Kee. The issuing of another writ revealed the fact that Wah Yung Sun Ty Kee was the maiden name, as it were, of Messrs. Ty Fong Ping Chow, and so the authorities bailed on hook with a writ and this time fished out the fact that the company consisted of one alleged swindler only, and his name was Cow Tin. This worthy being cornered, pointed out that he bought all goods in the name of Ky Ko, whose shingle happened to be over the door the time, and he, Cow Fat, of course, looking at all about the business. Thirty or other copper-headed fan-tan fakors were subsequently taught, and the creditors, after a waste of time and tin, had their perseverance rewarded by actually finding out the real responsible man, a gent. by the name of Pan To. Pan To was dead then, and by this time the stock in the shop clearly proved he had taken all his earthly treasures with him.

The Germania, the leading organ of the German Catholics, in the course of some observations on the French proceedings in Tonkin gives some interesting information concerning the strength of the Christian element in that country, and the organization established by Catholic missionaries. The Kingdom of Annam occupies an area of about 446,500 square miles, with a population of about 21 million. The spiritual interests of the native French Catholics are ministered to by six "apostolic vicars," whose charge is distributed as follows:

Missionaries.	Christians.
Eastern Tonquin.....	48 672
Middle Tonquin.....	51 144
Western Tonquin.....	52 144
Southern Tonquin.....	52 144
Northern Cochin China.....	56 72
Eastern Cochin China....	43 97

Total..... 396 501

To these half-million Christians in Annam and Tonkin are to be added those under French rule in Western Cochín China, numbering 51,000 missionaries, and in Cambodia, number-
ing 17,792 Christians, with 19 missionaries.

Germania observes that for any one acquainted with the history and the usages of those countries, these figures state their own argument for any commentary. Whether it be for the benefit of the inhabitants of Tonkin, it should pass under French domination, it is this that hostilities on the part of the French may be the occasion for severe persecution of native Christians on the part of the mandarins and Annamite Government. The campaign of 1873 was avenged by the burning of Christian villages, while it is said 140 Christians were put to death, and three thousand women were reduced to slaves in the

GENERAL IOLESIAS has issued a decree that all Peruvians between the ages of 21 and 60, and all foreigners over one year in the country, must pay a poll tax of one silver dollar.

THE United States corvette *Funata*, 1,900 tons, 26 officers, 200 men, 10 guns, Commander P. F. Harrington, arrived this afternoon from Singapore, and will proceed direct to Canton to-morrow morning at daylight. The *Funata* was in a typhoon on the 2nd, instance which considerably delayed her arrival. The *Enterprise* left Singapore a couple of days later than the *Funata* and may probably be in port to-morrow.

A REPORT has been current in the colony to-day that the French steamer *Namoun*, trading between here and Hoihow and Haiphong, has been destroyed 'by fire' in the latter port. From all enquiries we have made we have been unable to learn anything in support of the report, which originated, we believed, with some Chinese who arrived here by junk from the south. The *Namoun* has been expected here for the past couple of days and her non-arrival may, after all, be the sole foundation of what is every appearance of being a false rumour.

A CONTEMPORARY asks the question—“James Carey’s career and fate act as a warning to any of the misguided men inclined to course such as his was at the start? He joined a band of conspirators whose object was murder, which murder they did; he took active part in their murdering plots; he betrayed the trust reposed in him by his friends in order to save his own carcass; his testimony secured five of his accessories to the gallows, and he was at last shot down like a dog. It was the first infamous step that led to all this; and was an epitome of crime, punishment, and retribution. It is!

"GRIBBLE" says that the letter, written by M. Bernard to the *Daily Press* was "singular" in that it was a pity she ever wrote it. He also says that if the writer had not been a lady, would have been inclined to describe her letter by a less complimentary term. We admit it is the communication in question was injudicious, perhaps. In questionable taste, but both a contribution to the literature of the period as an exhibition of good taste: it was a very long way ahead of "Gribbles" badly written, illiterate, untrue and grossly impudent comment. The writer of these comments is, evidently, a charming male person, who is striving hard to qualify himself for an intimate acquaintance with a horse-pond.

A New York physician reports to the Board of Health a pleasant cat and rat story. Noting a very bad smell that seemed to come in from rear windows of a house in which he was visiting a patient, he kept waiting, and saw a number of Chinamen, with knives in their hands, gather round a black pot in an adjoining yard. They had a number of dead cats and rats, which they proceeded to skin and clean, turning up and putting the meat into the pot, preparatory to cooking it for dinner, and throwing the skins and refuse over the fence into the doctor's patient's back yard. Witnessing such exhibitions like that would prejudice almost any respectable American citizen against the filthy Chinese unless he happened to be a vicar of philanthropy.

A rumor was current throughout the city this morning that Mr. Leong On, one of our influential and most highly respected Chinese merchants, had "crashed" for something in the neighborhood of a million of dollars. From inquiry we have made the reported failure appears to be a mere *canard*. It seems that Mr. Leong On has lately been dabbling in shares and business speculations, with the result that he "got stuck" for an amount variously estimated at from twenty-five to seventy thousand, due to this circumstance the reported failure is doubt to be attributed. "We trust that matters soon be set right, as such a report concerning a gentleman of Mr. Leong On's high standing would be likely, if not promptly contradicted, to do a great deal of harm to the numerous Chinese public institutions with which he is intimately associated."

SAYS *Blackwood's Magazine*.—There are
which fall short of murder, and which yet de-
the gallows. For instance, a brutal case
by Mr. Justice Stephen himself, where a
entrapped a mere lad with money about him,
a Metropolitan Railway carriage, and col-
failed of effecting his death through his vic-
victim crawling out of his way under the
the objection to our minds of increasing
death penalty is not that it is not deserv-
that it strikes the imagination of people is go-
more than it does that of the criminal.
Lumsden, for instance, an educated man, ac-
murdered his victim the very same week
Lefroy, another sensational murderer, was
hanged. Obviously capital punishment de-
deter him. The public mind, on the
hand, is so sensitive on the subject, that
murderer may be said to have three sets
of escape more than other people, and
reluctance to set the criminal law in
concord is any doubt at all as to the
convict?—the pitious appeals for mercy
are raised almost in every case, and
out reason, at the time for execution
proceeds. Even in the case of Palmer,
St. James' Stephen denounces several
cases as the most horrible villainies that
levelled—who murdered his friend, wife, &c.
according to this bill found by the
July—public meetings were held to
the verdict and summing up, and calling
reprieved?—Sergeant Ballantine in his re-
all sensational cases, as well as those
produced by a conviction of the public
with expressing themselves against the
every link in the chain of evidence, and
when the case is complete and the
best demonstrated by every
burst of public sympathy, and
Rowley and presents a case
condemned still, as if it were a
gods and men was a
of patriotic and public

POLICE COURT.

OUR LATEST LIBEL CASE

The case in which Mr. R. Frazer Smith, editor, proprietor and publisher of the *"Hongkong Telegraph"* is charged at the instance of Mr. John McNelis Price, Surveyor General of Hongkong, with having published on the 30th and 28th of July and the 4th September, certain false and defamatory libels concerning the said John McNelis Price, was again brought before Captain Thomsett, at the police court this morning. Mr. Jno J. Francis, barrister-at-law, instructed by Mr. Wotton, of Messrs. Breckton, Wotton and Deacon, appeared for the prosecutor.

Mr. Francis in addressing the bench observed that both the defendant and prosecutor were gentlemen well-known in the colony. Mr. Fraser-Smith being Editor of the *Hongkong Telegraph* and Mr. Price, the honourable the Surveyor-General. For some time past Mr. Fraser-Smith has been, writing in his newspaper, of certain corrupt practices which were alleged to exist in various departments of the Government service, a course he was quite entitled to pursue, as the management of our public business was a fitting subject for public comment and criticism. Mr. Francis then referred to the remarks made in the *Telegraph* as to the advisability of having all government contracts advertised extensively instead of confining notices to the *Government Gazette*, expressing the opinion that it was a very proper thing to advocate. Coming directly to the matter in hand the learned barrister stated that the defendant had on several occasions alleged in his articles to Mr. Price, and he was now charged with having libelled that gentleman in a paragraph published in the *Telegraph* of September 3rd. It was a very short paragraph and he would submit to his worship that any one reading it would come to the conclusion that it contained insinuations that the Surveyor-General had in connection with government contracts been guilty of bribery and extortion. Before reading the alleged libellous article he would ask leave to amend the summons by striking out the words "knowing them to be false." The summons was amended accordingly and Mr. Francis then read the paragraph complained of, making a running commentary on the various sentences, and concluding by submitting to his magistrate that he had established sufficient to justify the case being sent before a Jury. The following is the paragraph complained of:

[illegible]

Mr. Fraser-Smith observed that what has been misstated to prove a terrible typhoon had degenerated into a storm in a tea-cup. He had been called to answer for about a dozen pages' of libelous material, and it had now come down to one feeble paragraph published on September 30. So far as that paragraph concerned, he had no strong objections to the case being sent before a jury, but thought there was nothing really libelous in that paragraph, and that the master would dismiss the summons. Pointing out that there were no libellous references made to the "Ptye" defendant stated that had the present case been at the instance of the Government, the Government would have been able to get the services of the Surveyor General, and that the Colonial Secretary's office would have been comprehensible, but he certainly failed to see what way the law proceeded to such an implication. Unless it was proved that the Survey General had been really nothing to do with the settlement of the Government contracts.

[illegible]

